

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 6269

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ SREF, PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: REFUGEES AND TURKISH POSITION ON RESUMPTION OF
NEGOTIATIONS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TAGS AND SUBJECT

1. AT SOCIAL OCCASION AUGUST 29 DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
BITSIOS TOOK POLITICAL COUNSELOR ASIDE TO DISCUSS CYPRUS.
HE SAID GOG NOW CONSIDERED REFUGEE PROBLEM ON ISLAND SHOULD
BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CURRENT SC
MEETING, CALLED ON INITIATIVE GOC, MIGHT MAKE SOME
HEADWAY ON PROBLEM. AT MINIMUM IT SHOULD EXPOSE VULNERABILITY
OF GOT POSITION. PERHAPS ADVERSE PUBLIC OPINION WOULD MOVE
TURKS. ACCORDING TO BITSIOS SYG WALDHEIM HAD SPECIFICALLY
SUGGESTED TO GOT THAT AT MINIMUM IT SHOULD PERMIT GREEK
CYPRIOTS IN GREEK AREA OF FAMAGUSTA, APPARENTLY NOW
COMPLETELY DESERTED, TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. WALDHEIM
HAD GOTTEN COMPLETE TURNDOWN IN ANKARA ASIDE FROM
VAGUE COMMENTS COVERING ALL REFUGEES ABOUT POSSIBLE
COMPENSATION OR EXCHANGE OF POPULATION. BITSIOS COMMENTED
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THAT GOG VIEWED THIS GOT ATTITUDE AS REINFORCING GREEK

FEAR THAT ULTIMATE TURKISH OBJECTIVE WAS TO TAKE OVER ENTIRE ISLAND, PERHAPS AS FIRST STEP IN BROADER TURKISH EXPANSIONIST PROGRAM. (DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE SIMILARITY TO COMMENTS DEPUTY PM/FM MAVROS MADE TO AMBASSADOR AUGUST 28.)

2. SPEAKING MORE GENERALLY, BITSIOS SAID GOG WAS AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHY SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH PM CARAMANLIS, EXPECIALLY MOST RECENT LETTER, OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO U.S. VIEWS ON TURKISH POSITION. HE ASSUMED SECRETARY WAS EQUALLY IN TOUCH WITH ANKARA. HE REMINDED EMBOFF THAT GOG IN EARLIER COMMUNICATION TO U.S. FROM CARAMANLIS, AS WELL AS PUBLICLY, HAD INDICATED CERTAIN CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS. GOG WONDERED WHETHER USG HAD MADE ANY EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN TURKISH VIEWS ON THEM. HE INTIMATED THAT EVEN IF, AS GOG APPARENTLY ASSUMED, TURKS WOULD REJECT THESE CONDITIONS, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO TURKS THAT COULD LEAD TO RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS AMONG PARTIES. FROM PRESS ACCOUNT OF SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GREEK-AMERICANS FROM CHICAGO GOG HAD IMPRESSION THAT USG HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THERE MIGHT BE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN TURKISH POSITION.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION BITSIOS SAID THAT OTHER STATESMEN THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSING CYPRUS WITH GOG--FOR EXAMPLE, AGA SHAHI, DUCCI, WALDHEIM--HAD INTRODUCED VIEWS THEY HAD OBTAINED IN ANKARA INTO DISCUSSIONS IN ATHENS. WHY WAS USG SILENT ABOUT SOUNDINGS IT MUST HAVE MADE IN TURKEY? HE CONCLUDED THAT CARAMANLIS WAS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN FINDING A WAY TO RESUME SOME FORM OF DISCUSSIONS ENGAGING TURKS, BUT HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION UNTIL HE HAD SOME ASSUARANCE THAT ECEVIT WOULD NOT BEHAVE AGAIN AS HE HAD DONE AT GENEVA WHEN, DESPITE PLEAS OF FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, HE HAD REFUSED TO GIVE CLERIDES 36 HOURS TO CONSIDER TURKISH PROPOSAL AND HAD WALKED OUT, WHEREUPON GENEVA TALKS BROKE DOWN COMPLETELY. GOG COULD NOT AFFORD TO REPEAT HUMILIATING EXPERIENCE OF THIS KIND. TASCA

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